

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

On page 1, following the title, please insert the following:

### **CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application is a National Stage of International Application PCT/EP2004/975754 filed February 26, 2004. Applicant claims foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a) – (d) of the following foreign applications for patent: German Application No. 103 08 821.0, filed February 27, 2003, and German Application No. 103 12 883.2, filed March 22, 2003, all of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

### **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

On page 1, please amend the first paragraph as follows:

The present invention relates to a method for ultrasound measurement ~~in accordance with the preamble of claim 1~~ and to a device for ultrasound measurement ~~in accordance with the preamble of claim 21 as disclosed herein~~.

On page 2, please delete the paragraph that begins in line 26 as follows:

~~The above object is achieved by a method according to claim 1 or 13 or a device according to claim 21. Advantageous embodiments are subject of the subclaims.~~

On page 3, in line 33, please insert a page break, the following heading and paragraph:

## **BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

A method for ultrasound measurement of at least one of an opening surface area of an orifice through which a fluid flows according to one embodiment of the present invention includes the step of evaluation of the back scatter of a measurement beam having a spatial measurement area and of a reference beam having a spatial measurement area. In terms of the disclosed method, the fluid is typically blood and the measurements include the volumetric flow rate and the flow volume through the orifice. The method is further defined by the characteristic that the spatial measurement area of the reference beam lies within the spatial measurement area of the measurement beam. Further, the method is characterized by several measurement beams with offset spatial, partially overlapping measurement areas covering the orifice completely. Further, reference beams with offset spatial measurement areas are evaluated for determination of at least one of the opening surface area, the volumetric flow rate, the flow volume, and any value proportional thereto.

On page 3, please amend the last paragraph as follows:

Further advantages, features, properties and aspects of the present invention will become evident from the following description of a preferred illustrative embodiment with reference to the ~~drawing, in which:~~ drawings.

On page 4, please add the following heading:

## **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS**

On page 4, in line 21, please insert a page break and the following heading and paragraph:

## **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

For the purposes of promoting an understanding of the principles of the invention, reference will now be made to the embodiments illustrated in the drawings and specific language will be used to describe the same. It will nevertheless be understood that no limitation of the scope of the invention is thereby intended, such alterations and further modifications in the illustrated device, and such further applications of the principles of the invention as illustrated therein being contemplated as would normally occur to one skilled in the art to which the invention relates.

On page 14, at line 8, please add the following paragraph:

While the invention has been illustrated and described in detail in the drawings and foregoing description, the same is to be considered as illustrative and not restrictive in character, it being understood that only the preferred embodiment has been shown and described and that all changes and modifications that come within the spirit of the invention are desired to be protected.

On page 23, in the first line, please amend the heading as follows:

**Abstract:**  
**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**